

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 1 and 3-5 are currently being amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found at least on pages 4 to 5 of the specification. Support for the amendment to claim 5 can be found at least in FIG. 1 and the accompanying description. Claims 6-15 are being added. No new matter is being added.

This amendment adds and changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-15 are now pending in this application.

Drawings

The drawings were objected to. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. With respect to Figures 8, the specification refers to the section lines as “A-A” and “B-B” (See specification on page 7, lines 18-21), not “9-9” and “10-10”. Thus, amending Figure 8 as suggested in the Office Action would lead to an inconsistency with the description of these lines in the specification.

With respect to the lateral and longitudinal beads and Figure 1, applicants submit that the lateral and longitudinal beads are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, which also illustrate the first embodiment. Applicants submit that there is no requirement that a claim feature be shown in each Figure, and that there is no requirement to illustrate lateral and longitudinal beads additionally in Figure 1.

Specification

The specification was objected to for informalities in the disclosure. The specification has been amended as suggested in the Office Action, thus overcoming the objection thereto.

Claim objections

Claims were objected to for informalities. The claims in general have been amended as suggested in the Office Action, thus overcoming the objection thereto. Applicants note that claim 4 has been amended slightly differently than suggested by the Office Action, but submit that the amendment corrects the informality identified in the Office Action.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,402,189 to Gray et al. (“Gray”). Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,961,142 to Shiraki et al. (“Shiraki”) in view of U.S. Patent 6,299,198 to Nakashima et al. (“Nakashima”). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claim 5

Independent claim 5, as amended, recites “a door for holding disposed on a back surface of said airbag lid, and said holding door including: a door body portion positioned on the back surface of said airbag lid.” Thus, in claim 5, the door body portion of the door for holding is disposed directly on the back surface of the air bag lid. By contrast, Gray discloses foam 6 disposed between its trim member 20 with shell server 69 and its reinforcement member 30 (equated by the Office Action with the door for holding). Gray fails to anticipate claim 5 for at least this reason.

Claim 1

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites “said lateral bead and said longitudinal bead are constructed to be crossed to prevent damage upon a fixed state between the airbag lid and the door body portion when an airbag of said airbag apparatus is expanded.” (emphasis added). By contrast, neither Shiraki nor Nakashima discloses this feature of claim 1. For example, while Shiraki discloses linear protrusions 50a arranged in a lattice pattern, Shiraki fails to disclose that the linear protrusions 50a are constructed such that when the air bag is expanded,

damage is prevented between the air bag door D1 (equated with the air bag lid as recited) and any door body portion of the air bag door core 41 (equated with the door for holding as recited). Shiraki does not disclose that its air bag door is attached to a back surface of an airbag lid through a boss, and it appears that the linear protrusions 50a only provide reinforcement against an external force applied from a vehicle interior. Claim 1 is patentable over Shiraki and Nakashima for at least this reason.

Dependent claims 2-4 and 6-10 ultimately depend from claim 1 or claim 5 and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

New independent claim 11 has been added, and recites "said first lateral bead and said longitudinal bead are substantially crossed to prevent damage upon a fixed state between the airbag lid and the door body portion when an airbag of said airbag apparatus is expanded." Thus, claim 11 is patentable for reasons analogous to claim 1, as discussed above. New dependent claims 12-15 ultimately depend from claim 11 and are patentable for at least the same reasons, as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

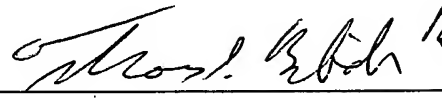
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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